

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3878
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18TH DECEMBER, 2024**

VSAT AT MAKACHUVA

3878. Shri Bishnu Pada Ray:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the First Captain of Makachuva, Little Nicobar has submitted repeated requests to the Andaman & Nicobar Administration in August 2023, October 2023 and recently on 19th November 2024 for the installation of a VSAT system in the village;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the specific actions taken by the Administration to address this demand, considering the critical need for connectivity to facilitate (i) Medical emergencies (ii) Children's education (iii) Access to digital services (iv) Essential services for ease of business etc.;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the person responsible for neglecting this critical demand from the tribal population; and
- (e) the timeline proposed by the Administration to install the VSAT system at Makachuva?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(DR. PEMMASANI CHANDRA SEKHAR)**

(a) to (e) Andaman and Nicobar Administration has on 28.11.2024 requested Department of Telecommunications to explore the feasibility of extending VSAT based solution to Makachuva, Little Nicobar under the Amended BharatNet Program. At present, there is no provision under the Amended BharatNet Program for extending VSAT based solution to Makachuva, Little Nicobar. Further, the Department of Telecommunications has commissioned the Chennai-Andaman and Nicobar Islands Submarine OFC project in 2020 between Chennai and Port Blair and seven other Islands namely Swaraj Deep (Havelock), Long Island, Rangat, Little Andaman (Hutbay), Kamorta, Car Nicobar & Great Nicobar (Campbell Bay) at a cost of Rs.1224 Cr. This provides up to 200 Gbps of submarine OFC bandwidth to these islands.
